40 is closed, the telephone line is connected directly to the computer via cable 20. When switch 42 is closed, the telephone line is connected directly to the local facsimile machine via line 24. This line is also connected to a "ring" generator 44 to signal an incoming fax. The ring generator provides am activation signal for initiating the facsimile machine when a standard incoming telephone "ring" signal is not present. The ring generator 44 communicates directly with the computer via cable 20 directly with the local facsimile machine 26 via the interface 18 [26]. A parallel switch 48 is also present to selectively initiate the ring generator. Where desired, cable 20 can also be connected directly to the modem and through a controller 50 to a switch 52 and to the ring generator 44 to signal an incoming fax directly from the network.

Page 5, line 14, full paragraph 2, please amend to read as follows

The telephone hook-up 22 shown in Fig. 3A is used when a remote facsimile machine is communicating either directly with the facsimile machine 26 in [26in] the normal manner, or with the computer 10 for transmission over the selected distributive network.

**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (Amended) A facsimile transmitting/receiving system comprising a standard facsimile machine and a computer based system in communication with the standard facsimile machine, the system comprising:

a. an interface positioned intermediately of and in communication with both the facsimile machine and the computer;

b. a line for receiving and sending facsimile signals in communication with the interface for selectively communicating directly with the facsimile machine and the computer; and

c. means for converting encoded documents to formats compatible with computer supported systems and with the facsimile machine;

wherein said means is further adapted for converting facsimile signals to a format for transmission over distributive communication networks and for converting network transmitted signals in a format for transmission over a facsimile transmission line.

10. (Amended) A method for transmitting a facsimile signal from a local station to a remote station via a distributive communication network comprising the steps of:

a. generating a facsimile signal utilizing a standard facsimile machine at the local station;

b. converting the signal to a format compatible with the network; and

c. transmitting the converted signal via the network to a remote station;

wherein both the local station and the remote station are facsimile machines, and further comprising the steps of:

a. receiving the converted, transmitted signal at the remote station;

b. reconverting the transmitted signal to a facsimile format; and

c. receiving the reconverted, transmitted signal at a standard facsimile machine.

20. (Amended) A facsimile transmitting/receiving system comprising a sending computer, a computer network, and a receiving computer

wherein the sending computer is comprised of an input device connected to a first controller, in turn connected to a transmitter and the receiving computer is comprised of a receiver connected to a second controller, in turn connected to an output device;

wherein the sending computer is connected to the computer network, which is in turn connected to the receiving computer; and

wherein the input device is capable of scanning a first document and providing a standard facsimile signal of said document to the first controller, the first controller capable of converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal and forwarding said computer data signal to the transmitter, the transmitter capable of transmitting said computer data signal to the receiver, the receiver capable of forwarding said computer data signal to the second controller, the second controller capable of rendering a second document, which is corresponding [substantially similar] to the first document, to the output device based upon the computer data signal.

21. (Amended) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system [apparatus] of claim **20** wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

22. (Amended) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system [apparatus] of claim **20** wherein the second controller is capable of converting the computer data signal to a second standard facsimile signal and forwarding said second standard facsimile signal to the output device; and

the output device capable of generating the second document on paper.

23. (Amended) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system [apparatus] of claim **22** wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

24. (Amended) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system [apparatus] of claim **22** wherein the output device is a printer.

25. (Amended) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system [apparatus] of claim **20** wherein the computer network is a TCP/IP network.

27. (Amended) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system [apparatus] of claim **26** wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

28. (Amended) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system [apparatus] of claim **26** wherein the computer network is a TCP/IP network.

36. (Amended) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location comprising the steps of:

creating a computer data signal representing a first document at the first location;

transmitting a computer data signal from a first processor at the first location to a second processor at the second location;

converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal at the second location; and

forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second location.

rendering a second document corresponding [substantially similar] to the first document at the second location;

38. (Amended) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location where a second document is rendered which is corresponding [substantially similar] to the first document comprising the steps of:

scanning a first document into an input device at the first location to generate a standard facsimile signal;

forwarding the standard facsimile signal to a first processor at the first location;

converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal at the first location; and

initiating transmission of the computer data signal to a second processor at the second location.

Cancel missing claim 42.

45. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising:

receiving a standard facsimile signal representing a first document from an input device at a first location;

converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal; and

initiating transmission of the computer data signal to a second processor at a second location for creation of a second document at the second location which is corresponding [substantially similar] to the first document.

46. (Amended) The computer readable medium [apparatus] of claim **45** wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

48. (Amended) The computer readable medium [apparatus] of claim **47** wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

Cancel claims 49-52.

**REMARKS**

The Applicant appreciates the thorough examination given this application by the Examiner. The Applicant has amended the claims and specifications to overcome the Examiner's objections. The Applicant will amend and submit formal drawings upon notification of allowability of the claims.

Claim Rejection 35 USC § 112

The Patent Examiner has rejected claims 20 and 49-52, as containing subject matter which is not described in the specifications. The Applicant has amended the application to cancel claims 49-52. The Examiner rejected claim 20 citing that the specification does not convey the claims limitation of "first controller" and "second controller." The Applicant has conveyed these limitations in the specifications in the detailed description of the preferred embodiment in the first full paragraph of page 4, where the Applicant refers to these limitations as "the facsimile

communication interface 18." The facsimile communication interface 18 is the equivalent of the "first controller" and the "second controller" limitations in claim 20.

The Patent Examiner has rejected claims 21-25, 27-28, 46, and 48, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards the invention. The claims as amended traverse the Examiner's objection as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims Rejection 35 USC § 102

The Patent Examiner has rejected claims 2-6, 10-11, and 17-52, as being anticipated by Feder (US 5,872,845). Feder is directed to a facsimile transmission system which receives modulated compressed messages which are demodulated, decompressed, and stored as files. Thereafter, the files are compressed and transmitted through a data network. At the receiving end the file is decompressed, then recompressed, and modulated for transmission to a facsimile. Feder teaches to compress and encode a facsimile message into an image data file, thereafter encapsulating the compressed file within a data file and transferring the data file to a remote computer, where the image data file is de-capsulated, decompressed, and decoded into conventional facsimile format. The Examiner's attention is directed to Fig. 1, 2, 3, and 4, Col. 3, line 57 through line 65, Col. 5, line 17 through line 33, and Col. 6, line 32 through line 40, of the Feder specifications.

By way of contrast, Applicant's invention is directed to a interface positioned intermediately of the computer, facsimile, and data network. This is particularly useful since that it does not require a new computer system, facsimile, or modified data network rather, it can be added to an existing system with basic requirements to handle the software. The invention is adaptable for use with other communication links and devices such as by way of example, ethernet, the world wide web and the like. The interface is also connected directly to a computer base such as a typical personal computer system, which permits communications between the network, the fax machine and the standard telephone system. In fact, the invention of Feder could be used in combination with Applicant's invention, wherein the method of transmitting the data uses the method as set forth in Feder.

Feder has limited itself to the manner of packaging and transmitting the data through a network, and does not directly or remotely suggest this invention. It does not speak to an interface

positioned intermediately of the data network, facsimile, and computer. It is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 2-6, 10-11, and 17-52.

The Patent Examiner has rejected claims 2-6, 10-11, and 17-52, as being anticipated by Scholl et al. (US 5,793,498). Scholl is directed to a system that provides supporting software to allow facsimile documents to be transferred via non-traditional mechanisms such as electronic mail, the Internet, and other non-fax modems. Scholl teaches a system that includes three main components: a SoftFax Viewer, a SoftFax Document Converter, and a SoftFax Driver. The examiner's attention is drawn to Fig 1 of the specification. The SoftFax Viewer displays an image of the facsimile document to be sent or received as a file transfer or as an attachment to a transmission. The SoftFax Document Converter processes a document in preparation for transfer by converting any file into the system standard format for storage on disk or other storage medium, and for future transfer through use of the system, or for transmission directly after conversion. The SoftFax Driver, a device driver utilized by the system of the present invention, acts as a Class 1/Class 2 modem or as any other device adhering to computer-to-modem facsimile interface standards (CMIS) with respect to the application software, providing a transparent path for facsimile data over networks which do not directly support G3 protocol or other fax protocols. The Examiner's attention is drawn to Col 5, Line 14 through line 57, of the Scholl specifications.

By way of contrast, Applicant's invention is directed to a interface positioned intermediately of the computer, facsimile, and data network. This is particularly useful since that it does not require a new computer system, facsimile or modified data network, rather it can be added to an existing system with basic requirements to handle the software. The invention is adaptable for use with other communication links and devices such as by way of example, ethernet, the world wide web and the like. The interface is also connected directly to a computer base such as a typical personal computer system, which permits communications between the network, the fax machine and the standard telephone system. In fact, the invention of Scholl could be used in combination with Applicant's invention, wherein the software as set forth in Scholl can be used in the Applicant's invention as the method to package the transmitting data.

Scholl has limited itself to software that packages and transmit data through a network. It does not directly or remotely suggest this invention. It does not speak to an interface positioned

intermediately of the data network, facsimile, and computer. It is requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 2-6, 10-11, and 17-52.

The art cited by the Examiner and of record does not disclose the apparatus and method of Applicant's invention, as amended, therefore it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw its rejection under 35 USC § 102. All rejections have been discussed and overcome, it is respectfully requested that the claims 2-6, 10-11, 17-41, and 43-48, as amended be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Soumit Roy
Registration No. 47,043
Attorney for Applicant

BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P.
PO Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
(713) 221-1491